This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit;

a setting unit setting an image capturing condition for capturing the image of the subject;

a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;

a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of image forming instruction information from among the plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information stored in said storing unit, based on the image capturing condition set by said setting unit; and

an outputting unit associating the image forming instruction information selected by said selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the image forming instruction information in association with the image data.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit;

a shooting mode selecting unit selecting a mode used for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;

a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming instruction modes used when a an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;

an image forming instruction mode selecting unit selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode from among the plurality of image forming instruction modes stored in said storing unit based on the shooting mode selected by said shooting mode selecting unit; and

an outputting unit associating the image forming instruction mode selected by said image forming instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the image forming instruction mode in association with the image data.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit;

an image capturing condition setting unit setting a condition for image capturing performed by said image capturing unit based on status of the subject;

a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;

an image forming instruction mode selecting unit selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode from among the plurality of image forming instruction modes stored in said storing unit based on the condition for image capturing, which is set by said image capturing condition setting unit; and

an outputting unit associating the image forming instruction mode selected by said image forming instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the image forming instruction mode in association with the image data.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit;

a shooting mode selecting unit selecting a mode used for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;

an image capturing condition setting unit setting a condition for image capturing performed by said image capturing unit based on status of the subject;

a storing unit storing a plurality of image forming instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;

an image forming instruction mode selecting unit selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode from among the plurality of image forming instruction modes stored in said storing unit based on the shooting mode selected by said shooting mode selecting unit, and

the condition for image capturing, which is set by said image capturing condition setting unit; and

an outputting unit associating the image forming instruction mode selected by said image forming instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the image forming instruction mode in association with the image data.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit;

a setting unit setting an image capturing condition for capturing the image of the subject from among a plurality of image capturing conditions to which priorities are assigned;

a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data;

a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of image forming instruction information from among the plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information stored in said storing unit, based on a priority assigned to the image capturing condition set by said setting unit; and

an outputting unit associating the image forming instruction information selected by said selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the image forming

instruction information in association with the image data.

Claim 6 (original): The electronic camera according to claim 5, wherein:

the plurality of image capturing conditions include at least a mode used for shooting, and a condition for image capturing; and

the mode used for shooting is assigned a priority higher than the condition for image capturing.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An electronic camera system having an electronic camera, and an image forming apparatus, wherein:

the electronic camera comprises

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal,

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit,

a setting unit setting an image capturing condition for capturing the image of the subject,

a storing unit storing a plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information used when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the image data,

a selecting unit selecting a predetermined piece of image forming instruction information from among the plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information stored in said storing unit, based on the image capturing condition set by said setting unit and

an outputting unit associating the image forming instruction information selected by said selecting unit with the image data, and outputting the image forming instruction information in association with the image data; and

the image forming apparatus comprises

a reading unit reading image data to be formed as an image, and image forming instruction information in association with the image data,

an image forming mode selecting unit selecting an image forming mode, which corresponds to the image forming instruction information read by said reading unit, from among a plurality of image forming modes performing an image forming process according to a different condition,

an image forming processing unit performing an image quality forming process according to the image forming mode selected by said image forming mode selecting unit, and

an image outputting unit outputting image data for which an image process is performed by said image forming processing unit.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method associating predetermined information with image data, and outputting the predetermined information in association with the image data, comprising:

setting an image capturing condition for capturing an image of a subject;

capturing the image of the subject, and outputting an image signal;

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal;

selecting a predetermined piece of image forming instruction information from among a plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data, according to the set image capturing condition; and

associating the selected image forming instruction information with the obtained image data, and outputting the image forming instruction information in association with the image data.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method associating predetermined information with image data, and outputting the predetermined information in associating with the image data, comprising:

selecting a mode used for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;

capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal;

selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data, according to the selected shooting mode; and

associating the selected image forming instruction mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the image forming instruction mode in associating with the image data.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method associating predetermined information with image data, and outputting the predetermined information in association with the image data, comprising:

setting a condition for image capturing based on status of a subject;

capturing an image of the subject, and outputting an image signal;

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal;

selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data, according to the set condition for image capturing; and

associating the selected image forming instruction mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the image forming instruction mode in association with the image data.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method associating predetermined information with image data, and outputting the predetermined information in association with the image data, comprising:

selecting a mode used for shooting from among a plurality of shooting modes;

setting a condition for image capturing based on status of a subject;

capturing an image of the subject, and outputting an image signal;

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal;

selecting a predetermined image forming instruction mode from among a plurality of image forming instruction modes used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data, according to the selected shooting mode and the set condition for image capturing; and

associating the selected image forming instruction mode with the obtained image data, and outputting the image forming instruction mode in associating with the image data.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method associating predetermined information with image data, and outputting the predetermined information in association with the image data, comprising:

setting an image capturing condition for capturing an image of a subject from among a plurality of image capturing conditions to which priorities are assigned;

capturing the image of the subject, and outputting an image signal;

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal;

selecting a predetermined piece of image forming instruction information from among a plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data, according to a priority assigned to the set image capturing condition; and

associating the selected image forming instruction information with the obtained image data, and outputting

the image forming instruction information in associating with the image data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An image forming method, comprising:

setting an image capturing condition for capturing an image of a subject,

capturing the image of the subject, and outputting an image signal,

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal,

selecting a predetermined piece of image forming instruction information from among a plurality of pieces of image forming instruction information used when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ based on the obtained image data, according to the set image capturing condition, and

associating the selected image forming instruction information with the obtained image data, and outputting the image forming instruction information in associating with the image data, in an electronic camera; and

reading image data to be formed as an image, and image forming instruction information in associating with the image data,

selecting an image forming mode which corresponds to the read image forming instruction information from among a plurality of image forming modes performing an image forming process according to a different condition,

performing an image quality forming process according to the selected image forming mode, and

outputting the image data for which the image process is performed as the image quality forming process, in an image forming apparatus.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit;

a shooting condition correcting unit correcting a shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the time of shooting;

a setting unit setting correction instruction information for instructing a correction for a process performed when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting unit; and

an outputting unit associating the correction instruction information for instructing a correction for a process performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~, which is set by said setting unit, with the image data and outputting the correction instruction information in association with the image data.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein

said setting unit sets correction instruction information for instructing whether or not to make a

correction for each process that includes at least any of a grayscale process, a color process, and a sharpness process, which are performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting unit.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The electronic camera according to claim 15, wherein

said setting unit sets correction instruction information for instructing corrections for a plurality of combined processes performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting unit.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An electronic camera system having an electronic camera and an image forming apparatus, wherein:

the electronic camera comprises

an image capturing unit capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal,

an image processing unit obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal captured by said image capturing unit,

a shooting condition correcting unit correcting a shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the time of shooting,

a setting unit setting correction instruction information for instructing a correction for a process performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the

shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting unit, and

an outputting unit associating the correction instruction information for instructing a correction for a process performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~, which is set by said setting unit, with the image data and outputting the correction instruction information in association with the image data; and

the image forming apparatus comprises

a reading unit reading image data to be formed as an image, and correction instruction information in association with the image data,

an image forming processing unit performing an image quality forming process based on the correction instruction information read by said reading unit, and

an outputting unit outputting the image data for which the image process is performed by said image forming processing unit.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The electronic camera system according to claim 17, wherein

said setting unit sets correction instruction information for instructing whether or not to make a correction for each process which includes at least any of a grayscale process, a color process, and a sharpness process, which are performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting unit.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The electronic camera system according to claim 18, wherein

said setting unit sets correction instruction information for instructing corrections for a plurality of combined processes performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the image data, based on the shooting condition corrected by said shooting condition correcting unit.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method associating predetermined information with image data, and outputting the predetermined information in association with the image data, comprising:

correcting a shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the time of shooting;

capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal;

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal;

setting correction instruction information for instructing a correction for a process performed when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the obtained image data, based on the corrected shooting condition; and

associating the set correction instruction information for instructing the correction for the process performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ with the image data, and outputting the correction instruction information in association with the image data.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An image forming method, comprising:

correcting a shooting condition for exposure or image quality at the time of shooting,

capturing an image of a subject, and outputting an image signal,

obtaining image data in a predetermined format based on the image signal,

setting correction instruction information for instructing a correction for a process performed when an image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ from the obtained image data, based on the corrected shooting condition, and

associating the set correction instruction information for instructing the correction for the process performed when the image forming apparatus forms a visible image ~~is formed~~ with the image data, and outputting the correction instruction information in association with the image data, in an electronic camera; and

reading image data to be formed as an image, and correction instruction information in association with the image data,

performing an image quality forming process based on the read correction instruction information, and

outputting the image data for which the image process is performed as the image quality forming process, in an image forming apparatus.

Claims 22-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the outputting unit automatically associates the image forming instruction mode selected by said image forming instruction mode selecting unit with the image data, and outputs, to the image forming apparatus, the image forming instruction mode in association with the image data such that the image forming apparatus uses, automatically, the selected piece of image forming instruction information when forming the visible image based on the image data.

Claim 49 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 50 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 51 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 3, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 52 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 53 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 5, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 54 (new): The electronic camera system according to claim 7, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 55 (new): The method according to claim 8, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 56 (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 57 (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 58 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 59 (new): The method according to claim 12, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 60 (new): The method according to claim 13, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 61 (new): The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 62 (new): The electronic camera system according to claim 17, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 63 (new): The method according to claim 20, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.

Claim 64 (new): The method according to claim 21, wherein the image forming apparatus is a printer.